



NEWS RELEASE

Matthew D. Orwig
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Texas

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Contact: Davilyn Brackin
Public Information Officer
(409) 839-2538 office
(409) 553-9881 cell

DENTON MAN SENTENCED FOR HURRICANE RELATED FRAUD

(Sherman, TX) United States Attorney Matthew D. Orwig announced today that a 31-year-old Denton man has been sentenced to nine months in federal prison for posing as a Hurricane Katrina victim and attempting to defraud the federal government. **SCOTT ALLEN NEWTON** was sentenced today by United States District Judge Richard Schell.

U.S. Attorney Orwig was pleased with the sentence, "The devastation caused by last year's storms has been compounded by those individuals attempting to make a quick buck. We will continue to seek out and aggressively prosecute all hurricane related fraud."

According to information presented in court, Newton and his wife, CHRIS JANICE NEWTON, devised a scheme to defraud the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) by submitting a false claim stating they resided in Slidell, Louisiana and were entitled to receive disaster benefits because of damages to their residence and personal property. In fact, Newton and his wife were residents of Denton, Texas at the time of the hurricane and never experienced hurricane-related losses. The Newtons

were indicted on January 12, 2006 and charged with filing a false claim with the United States Government.

Chris Newton was sentenced on August 23, 2006 to five months in federal prison. The Newton's were also ordered to jointly pay \$6,539.60 in restitution.

In September 2005, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created the Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force, designed to deter, investigate and prosecute disaster-related federal crimes such as charity fraud, identity theft, procurement fraud and insurance fraud. The Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force – chaired by Assistant Attorney General Alice S. Fisher of the Criminal Division – includes the FBI, the U.S. Inspectors General community, the U.S. Secret Service, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the Executive Office for United States Attorney, and others.

This case was investigated by the Department of Homeland Security and prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Randall Blake.

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